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NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS



IN CHARGE OF
ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

TREATMENT OF "TYPHOID CARRIER."—The *New York Medical Journal*, quoting from the *Lancet*, says: Irwin and Houston report the case of a girl, aged twenty-six years, who contracted typhoid fever seven years previously, since when she had had typhoid bacilli in the stools and urine, and six people living in the same house with her were attacked with typhoid fever. She was given a series of injections of a typhoid vaccine (sterilized typhoid bacilli) with the result that the bacilli disappeared permanently from the stools and the urine.

BEE'S STINGS AND RHEUMATISM.—E. W. Ainley Walker, in the *British Medical Journal*, reports that he has investigated the statement that the sting of a bee will cure chronic rheumatism. Walker collected information from country doctors, bee-farmers and from Dr. Ferc in Austria, who treated 700 cases of chronic rheumatism with bee's stings during the last thirty years. That the subject is worthy of earnest consideration is evidenced from the reports collected by Walker. A peculiar fact brought out in these investigations is the knowledge that sufferers from rheumatism are very little susceptible to the bee's sting. The active principle in the bee's poison is probably formic acid, which is found in the poison with an alkaloid. Further study of the subject is advisable, and hypodermic injections of the poison could be tried.

SURGICAL TREATMENT OF EXCESSIVE AXILLARY SWEATING.—The *Medical Record* says: F. J. Porter refers to the discomfort of this condition in hot climates and instances the case of an army surgeon who contracted septicæmia and had to have made an extensive excision of his axillary glands. Owing to sinuses, it was necessary to remove considerable of the skin and on recovery he found an absence of sweating, and examination showed that all of the hair-bearing skin of the axilla had been removed and along with it the large sweat-glands. The comfort to the surgeon was so great that he had a similar operation done under cocaine and adrenalin on the other axilla. The reporter says that the operation is simple, painless, and does not require opening the axilla, and is free from risk. If the suturing is carefully done, the wound heals primarily and the arm may be used in a week.

TREATMENT OF CANCER WITH COCAINE.—The *Medical Record*, in a synopsis of a paper in the *British Medical Journal*, says: R. M. Gilchrist summarizes the histories of fourteen cases. In every case the general constitutional condition of the patient was very much impaired, even if only for a time. The author says that for the relief of pain cocaine stands unrivalled, for while it eases or takes away the pain, it produces none of the objectionable conditions of opiates. In every case of uterine cancer in which hemorrhage was a prominent symptom, the administration of cocaine was followed by immediate benefit. The author goes so far as to say that he considers cocaine a valuable diagnostic agent, for in case of a doubtful growth he would consider the absence of improvement following cocaine evidence of non-malignancy. The remedy has been given both internally and externally. The author cannot say whether the remedy has any power over or effect on the embryonic epithelial cell of malignancy whereby a malignant is converted into a benign tissue, or whether benefit arises from the powerful stimulus of the drug. Cancer patients will stand large doses of this remedy.

ASTHMA; ITS CAUSE AND TREATMENT.—The *Medical Record*, quoting from the *British Medical Journal*, says: According to W. Lloyd there are three causative factors in asthma: (1) The presence of hyper-sensitive areas in the nasal mucosa or a special sensitiveness of the gastric mucosa; (2) a special irritant of the pulmonary nervous system which constitutes the asthmatic idiosyncrasy with which the patient was born, and (3) the presence of an irritant, *e.g.*, odors, dust, smoke, dietetic errors, etc. Treatment follows according to this classification. In a given paroxysm inquire as to the last meal and remove any obvious exciting cause. If the patient is in a bad atmosphere, remove him. Get him out of bed, bolster him up in an armchair before a cushioned table on which he may rest his elbows and throw himself forward. Ipecac powder will occasionally cut short an attack and permit of a good night. Some patients can get the same relief from pipe tobacco, but all such remedies must be used early. Plain strong hot coffee is one of our surest remedies. Alcohol, cocaine, and chloroform are all serviceable, but the danger of habit formation must not be forgotten. Stramonium smoking and nitre paper fumes are often efficient. The author's experience with the iodide of potash has been disappointing. The food should be nutritious and easily digestible. Asthmatics should dine early, so as to retire on empty stomachs. Intranasal abnormalities must be rectified. For ordinary intranasal irrigation the normal salines are better than the usual antiseptics employed for this purpose.

ALMOND CAKES FOR DIABETICS.—The *New York Medical Journal*, quoting from a French contemporary, says: Le Goff gives the following recipe for making almond cakes for use in the feeding of diabetic patients: pulverized sweet almonds, 250 grammes; eggs, No. 2; sodium bicarbonate, 2 grammes; tartaric acid, 1 gramme. Triturate to a paste and cook for twenty-five minutes. Each cake of the combined weight of ingredients is said to contain from five to seven per cent. of carbohydrates.

CURRENT LITERATURE OF INTEREST TO NURSES

Maryland Medical Journal, February, "The Physiological and Therapeutical Influence of the Mind on the Body," Magruder. *American Journal of Surgery*, February, "Borderline Cases in Medicine and Surgery," Allison. *Interstate Medical Journal*, January, "The Physical Culture of the Puerperium," Gellhorn. *Medical Record*, February 13, "Diet as a Means of Increasing Vital Resistance in Tuberculosis," Kellogg; February 20, editorial, "What is Typhoid Fever?" *New York Medical Journal*, February 13, "Prophylactic Inoculations against Typhoid Fever," Shoemaker. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, February 27, "The Abuse of Surgery," Wiggins; "The Advantages and Difficulties of Publicity in Connection with Municipal Public Health," Levy; "Food Intoxication in Infancy," Brennermann; March 6, "Constipation." *The Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast*, March, "The Wreck of the *Æon*—Ten Weeks a Castaway," Campbell. *The Outlook*, February 20, "America Sober," Barrows; March 6, "Porpoises and Stars," Poole. *McClure's*, March, "Evidence against Alcohol," Rosanoff. All the recent issues of *Charities* contain articles which nurses who are social workers cannot afford to miss, and which any nurse would be wiser for reading—articles on child labor and industrial conditions.

"I do the very best I know how, the very best I can, and I mean to keep doing so till the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything."—LINCOLN.